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Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

HICKMAN, EDWIN LITTON
(1875-1956)
COLLECTION OF HICKMAN AND WEAKLEY FAMILY
PAPERS
1801-1885

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INTRODUCTION

The Edwin Litton Hickman Collection of Hickman and Weakley Family Papers contain papers, primarily correspondence, of ancestors of Edwin Litton Hickman. They include his great-great-grandfather Col. Robert Weakley (1764-1845), great-grandfather Maj. John P. Hickman (1788-1840), grandfather Edwin Weakley Hickman (1821-1893), and father John Pryor Hickman (b. 1846), all of Nashville, Tennessee. The collection was given to the Manuscript Section by Judge Litton Hickman in 1953.

The collection occupies approximately 3 ¼ linear feet, including an oversize scrapbook. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of the Hickman and Weakley Family Papers in the custody of the Tennessee State Library and Archives have been dedicated to the public. Single photocopies of unpublished writings may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Hickman and Weakley Family Papers consist of documents, primarily correspondence, of Col. Robert Weakley (1764-1845), Maj. John P. Hickman (1788-1840), Edwin Weakley Hickman (1821-1893), and John Pryor Hickman (b. 1846), collected by their descendant, Edwin Litton Hickman (1875-1956). The papers also include a scrapbook and school themes of Edwin Litton Hickman.

Col. Robert Weakley was a prominent early surveyor of the Middle Tennessee area, and papers pertaining to him primarily relate to land on the Duck River owned by friends and relations in North Carolina. These include two 1808 letters from Matthew Brandon and letters, 1801-1822, from George Locke, James Locke, and Robert Locke (Weakley's wife was Mary Jane Locke and their home was Lockeland in what is now East Nashville). Some of these letters also include family and neighborhood news from Rowan County, N.C. There are also two letters from Charles Cassedy, 1840, concerning a tribute to Weakley's recently-deceased son-in-law, Maj. John P. Hickman; an 1836 letter from Weakley's nephew, William W. Fambro of Cahawba, Alabama; and a letter from William M. Hinton, 1836, asking for payment for road work. The Fambro letter is especially informative in its mention of his abortive attempt to acquire land in Texas and the current state of affairs in that territory, the status of the 2nd Seminole War, the hostile state of the Creek Indians, the local prices of slaves and the large number being sold, and his plans to edit a newspaper called the Southern Democrat. The May 14, 1813 letter of Robert Locke also mentions the effect of war and politics on the price of cotton and the elections for Congress in North Carolina.

Documents of Maj. John P. Hickman, a lawyer, member of the Tennessee General Assembly, and participant in the 2nd Seminole War, include an undated letter regarding disbursement of payments to a Dr. Dickinson, written in Hickman's capacity as Brigade Quartermaster, Tennessee Volunteers; an 1837 letter from the U.S. Treasurer's Office regarding the claim of William T. Haskell of Capt. Chandler's Company for repayment of the loss of a horse; and five letters to his wife, Narcissa Weakley Hickman, 1830-1836, written from New Orleans, on the steamboat Brandywine on the Ohio River, from Washington, D.C., and from Mobile, Ala. The latter, written during his Seminole War service, mentions recent battles and his duties arranging transportation home for Tennessee troops. He mentions Gen. Robert Armstrong and Gov. Richard Keith Call of Florida. The earlier letters from New Orleans and the steamboat Brandywine primarily involve business and personal news, while the Washington letter, written while on political business, includes some interesting comments on an invitation to dine with John Bell, whom Hickman doesn't like, and the difficulty of finding time to speak with members of Congress.

The collection includes two documents of Maj. Hickman's son, Edwin Weakley Hickman: an 1846 letter from Gov. Aaron V. Brown, responding to Hickman's offer to raise a company of troops for the Mexican War, and a license to practice law, dated 1850. Two volumes of Shakespeare excerpts copied in 1874 by John Pryor Hickman, son of Edwin Weakley Hickman and Penelope Brunson Hickman, are also included.

CONTAINER LIST

Folder

Col. Robert Weakley documents

1. Letters, Matthew Brandon, 1808
2. Letters, Charles Cassedy, 1840
3. Letter, William W. Fambro, 1836
4. Letter, William M. Hinton, 1836
5. Letter and power of attorney, George Locke, 1822
6. Letters and power of attorney, James Locke, 1808-1812
7. Letters, Robert Locke, 1807-1814
8. Settlement between Robert Locke and Robert Weakley, 1815

Maj. John P. Hickman documents

9. Letter, John P. Hickman to Dr. Dickinson, n.d.
10. Letters, John P. Hickman to Narcissa Hickman, 1830-1836
11. Letter, U.S. Treasury Dept. to John P. Hickman, 1837

Edwin Weakley Hickman documents

12. Letter, Aaron V. Brown to E.W. Hickman, 1846
13. Law license, Edwin W. Hickman, 1850

John Pryor Hickman documents

14. Shakespeare excerpts (2 volumes), 1874

Edwin Litton Hickman documents

15. School themes, ca. 1885-1890

Scrapbook (oversize volume), 1885